



THE STATE OF YOUTH MENTORING IN CT

DID YOU KNOW...

1 in 3 young people will grow up without a mentor

The Governor's Prevention Partnership has provided leadership, training, and resources to mentoring programs throughout the state of Connecticut since 1998. As the state affiliate of MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership, The Partnership brings the latest in mentoring research and evidence-based practices to youth mentoring. In an effort to continually assess the youth served by mentoring in Connecticut, The Partnership regularly conducts a census of mentoring program providers. The 2015 survey provides updated information on mentoring programs in the state with an increased focus on aligning the practices of programs with emerging national quality-based initiatives that promote and strengthen adult/youth mentoring relationships.

This report summarizes key findings of the survey, including the types of programs offered, the youth served, and recommendations to help close the mentoring gap in the state.

For more information, visit: www.PreventionWorksCT.org

Who Provides Youth Mentoring in Connecticut?

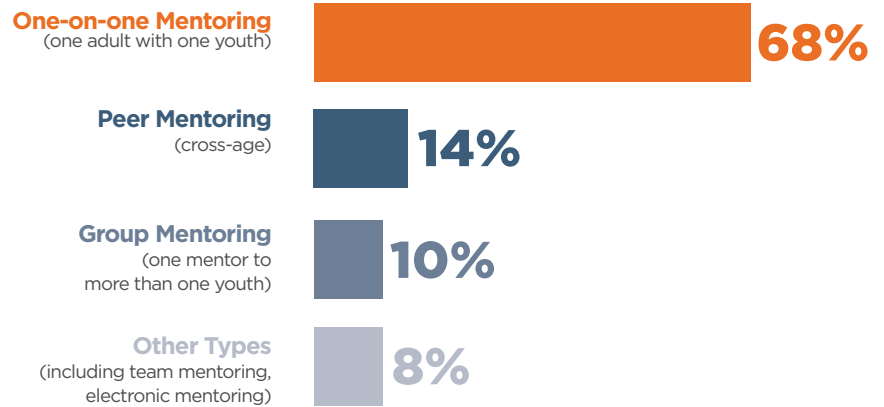
It is estimated that there are at least 150 organizations providing mentoring in the state of Connecticut, running nearly 200 youth mentoring programs.

Approximately 13,000 youth are served annually by mentoring programs in the state*, matched with 10,000 mentors recruited from the community, corporate partners, colleges and universities, faith-based organizations, and schools (for peer mentoring).



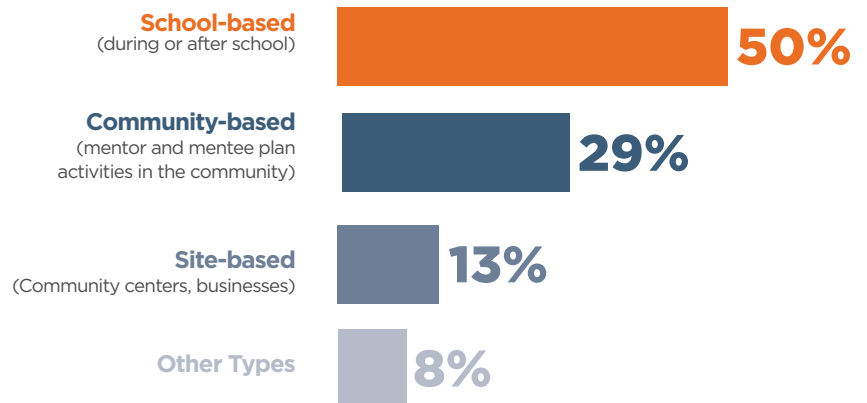
How is mentoring done?

The most common form of mentoring is one-on-one mentoring, a match between one adult and one youth. Even with the increasing use of technology, mentoring is still occurring face-to-face almost all the time.



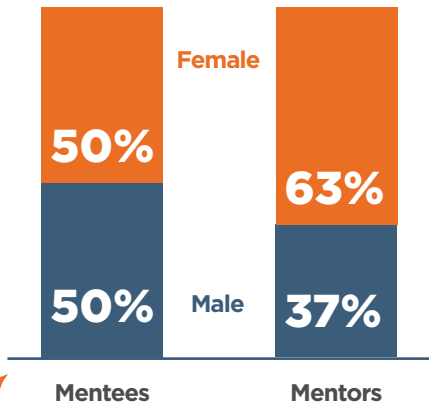
Where is mentoring done?

School-based mentoring is the most common setting (50%), followed by community (29%) and then site-based (13%).

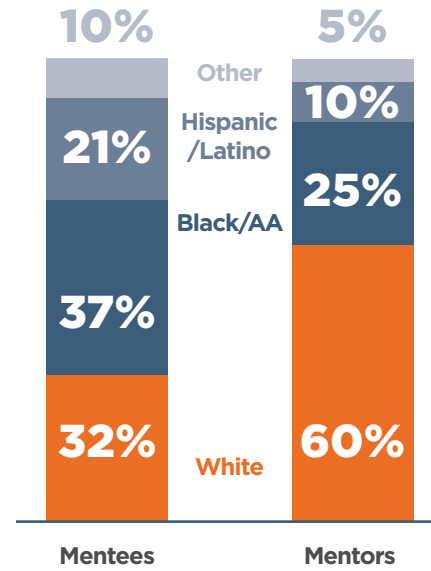


Methodology: The survey was sent electronically in May 2015 to 188 organizations previously identified as providing youth mentoring services in Connecticut. Forty-two of these organizations no longer provide mentoring services. Out of the 146 organizations providing mentoring services, 71 responded for a response rate of 49%. Total numbers in this report are estimated based on the response rate.

AGE: Programs serve youth from elementary to high school age, with slightly more elementary and middle school youth than high school.



Gender of Mentors and Mentees



Race/Ethnicity of Mentors and Mentees

- There continues to be a gender and racial gap between mentees and available mentors.
- 60% of mentors are White compared to only 32% of mentees.
- Programs are still in need of more male and Black/African American and Hispanic/Latino mentors.

A majority of programs are serving youth who are academically at-risk (57%), and between 10-25% are serving youth with higher needs, including those on juvenile probation, and youth with incarcerated parents, mental health needs, in foster or residential care, not attending school or chronically absent, or at-risk of or involved in gangs. These programs often need to offer or refer to wraparound services to support the needs of these youth, and provide more support to establish a quality match and sustain the match for a minimum of 1 year.

THE MENTORING EFFECT: A report released in 2014 described the impact of mentoring on at-risk youth, including youth with academic performance issues, chronic absenteeism, delinquency, incarcerated parents, and other barriers to achieving productive adult lives. Those who had a mentor were more likely to attend college and participate in school and community activities, and reported that the mentoring relationship helped with problem-solving and the development of life skills. The Partnership works to close the mentoring gap and help youth mentoring programs match qualified mentors with the young people who need them.

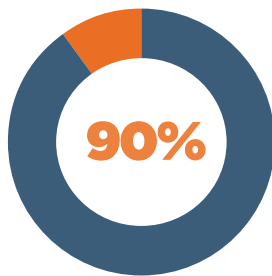
Program Management

Programs average less than 2 full-time staff supporting mentoring, and 26% of programs only have part-time staff. 5% of programs are run with volunteers. Nearly one-third of programs operate on a budget under \$5,000, and only 27% of programs indicate their budget is adequate. Only 40% of programs were involved in a local mentoring collaborative, which provides coordination of services at a local level.

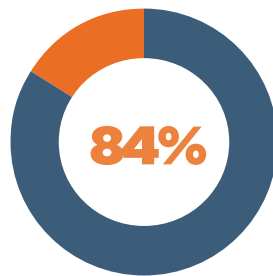
QUALITY MENTORING STANDARDS

In 2012, Connecticut was one of six states that participated in a pilot initiative focused on quality mentoring standards. By providing an opportunity for programs to engage in a systematic assessment of their implementation of research-based best practices in the mentoring field, youth are served in effective and safe programs. The Partnership continues to expand this initiative, and nationally recognized quality standards are the foundation for the resources and training provided to mentoring programs.

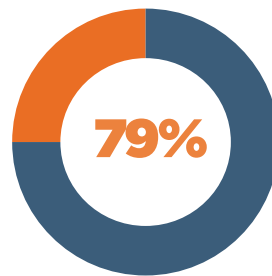
An emphasis on quality standards in the survey shows that programs have increased their use of best practices, and identified areas where The Partnership can focus support and resources. The majority of programs are measuring outcomes - most frequently mentor and youth satisfaction - but need help in using this information to continually improve the program.



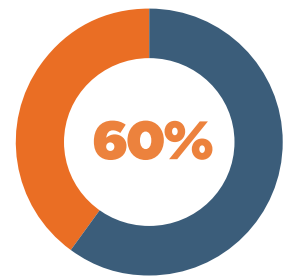
of programs provide **mentor training**, a significant increase from the less than 50% doing so in 2012.



are **monitoring matches** at least monthly- only 50% were monitoring regularly in 2012.



of matches meet **at least an hour** weekly.



of programs had a formal procedure for all **match closures**, an area of increased focus in mentoring.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO ADVANCE MENTORING IN CONNECTICUT

Funding for Sustainability and Growth. With already limited resources, more than half of the programs anticipate serving additional youth next year, which means additional support is needed to recruit mentors, match youth, and provide monitoring and support for the relationship.

High-Quality Training & Coordination of Services. Mentoring programs need advanced training on quality mentoring standards and the needs of higher-risk youth, such as those involved in the juvenile justice system. Established mentoring collaboratives in each of the major urban areas would provide additional training opportunities and important resource-sharing.

Targeted Recruitment. Only 58% of programs keep a youth waiting list, but for those that do, there are approximately 2,000 youth referred to mentoring in the state currently waiting for a mentor. There are more than **100,000 additional at-risk youth** in the state who could benefit from a mentor. Campaigns supported by community leaders and businesses to recruit mentors, especially Black/African American and Hispanic/Latino males, will help close this gap.

THE PARTNERSHIP

Created in 1989, The Governor's Prevention Partnership is a not-for-profit partnership between state government and business leaders with a mission to keep Connecticut's youth safe, successful and drug-free. Co-chaired by Governor Dannel Malloy and a business leader, the organization focuses on positive school climate, mentoring, and the prevention of underage drinking and substance abuse. The Partnership also responds to emerging threats facing our youth and raising awareness through the media.

For more information, please contact **Sandi Soucie**, Director of Innovation & Impact at Sandi.Soucie@PreventionWorksCT.org or **(860) 523-8042 x 50**

30 Jordan Lane • Wethersfield, CT 06109 | PreventionWorksCT.org

